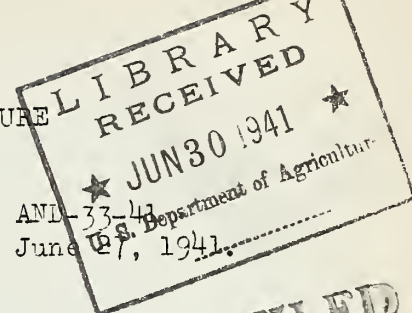


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1-914
A2Ag8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information



FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

FILED

AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

DIRECTOR M. CLIFFORD TOWNSEND, of the Office of Agricultural Defense Relations, summed up some of the national defense problems of farmers in an address June 24 before the Agricultural Club of Chicago, in this fashion: "American agriculture, governed by nature, must plan months and even years ahead to meet unspectacular but vital defense production schedules. This rural activity is in sharp contrast to the colorful, attention-getting defense jobs, such as turning out planes and ships, or training men. Consequently, many city people do not realize the vital part farmers play in feeding, clothing, and helping equip the armed forces. Farmers have had 8 years experience in working together to achieve production adjustment on a national scale. The same machinery that has been used in the past to adjust production downward is just as effective in adjusting production upward. So, when the decision was reached that more of some food products would be needed to feed our people and the nations being aided under the Lend-Lease Act, it was a comparatively simple matter to put this machinery to work. Agriculture cannot afford to wait for a 'squeeze' to develop before doing something about it. If a defense manufacturer spends 30 to 60 days arguing the terms of a contract, all that is lost is a month or two of production. This regrettable, of course, but, if necessary, the manufacturer can run additional shifts later on and make up the loss. But the farmer can't work that way. If it's planting time, and he spends 30 to 60 days arguing over whether to increase production, we have lost the production for a full season because the farmer's operations are limited by nature. When the growing season is over, all he can do is sit and wait until the next season begins."

THE ARMY IS INTERESTED in a new process for making cotton and other fabrics mildew resistant because of its possible use on tents, tarpaulins, and sandbags. The process was developed by Helen M. Robinson, of the Bureau of Home Economics. A public service patent makes the process available to anyone without payment of royalty. The new process has several advantages over older treatments. Besides being very effective as a protection against mildew and rotting, it is comparatively inexpensive, non-toxic, and has value for home as well as commercial use.

THE IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM of the Rural Electrification Administration has been opened to a group of eight young engineers from as many Latin-American Republics in an effort to aid the Nation's "Good Neighbor" policy. For a year these young men, who have just reached Washington, will engage in intensive study of the rural electrification program. They will work with a class of 32 junior engineering trainees recruited from State colleges and universities in this country. These men represent the sixth in-service training class to be conducted by REA since 1935. The State Department and the Office of the

Coordinator for Commercial and Cultural Relations between the American Republics aided in expanding the program to include the Latin-Americans. The last-named office and the Department are cooperating in providing funds for the Latin-Americans' travelling expenses and to provide each of them a monthly allowance of \$135 for the training period.

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS

ARGENTINA: On leaving Argentina for the United States the five members of the Agricultural Commission of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace stated that they would be in accord in supporting the following measures designed to eliminate the antagonism caused by the beef controversy: (1) Establishment of a joint research program between the United States and Argentina to find a cure for hoof and mouth disease; (2) sending of an American Commission of experts to ascertain what parts of Argentina are free from that disease and to determine whether such regions can be maintained disease-free by quarantine measures; (3) if effective quarantine measures can be devised, the removal of United States sanitary restrictions against imports from areas declared disease-free and safe by the above commission; and (4) a reduction in the United States tariff on canned beef.

JAPAN: The fertilizer shortage, which has constituted a serious problem during recent years, is further complicated by Japan's inability to import sufficient potassium chloride and sulphate. Foodstuff rationing is coming into force with increasing rapidity. In addition to sugar, rice, wheat, flour, and bread, which have been rationed either locally or nationally for some time, most large urban centers during May added fish, potatoes, onions, beer, sake, and vegetable oils.

BRAZIL: An agreement was completed between Great Britain and Brazil on June 16 for the purchase of a million pounds (\$4,025,000) worth of cotton.

